

U.S. and Iraq agree on talks

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and Iraq have agreed that talks involving their foreign ministers aimed at averting war in the Gulf should not include other countries, the State Department said Monday. "After discussions with coalition partners and communication between the U.S. embassy in Baghdad and the government of Iraq, we have concluded the meetings should be bilateral, i.e., the United States and Iraqi representatives only," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tsvieler. But she said Iraq had not yet formally accepted President George Bush's proposal to send Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz to Washington next week and allow Secretary of State James Baker to visit Baghdad before Jan. 15. In his original proposal last Friday, Bush said he would invite the ambassadors of key U.S. allies to sit in on his meeting with Aziz. But Iraq promptly said it would like to bring some of its allies, such as the Palestine Liberation Organization, along too. Hearing that, Washington quickly retreated.

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Arab tripartite talks in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — The foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia Monday began talks on the Gulf crisis and U.S. President George Bush's offer for dialogue with Iraq. It was the third meeting in recent weeks of Syria's Farouq Al Sharara, Saudi Arabia's Prince Saud Al Faisal and Egypt's Esmat Abdul Meguid. They held talks in Saudi Arabia in October and in Damascus last month. The three countries have led Arab opposition to Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Egypt and Syria have contributed troops and equipment to the U.S.-led multinational forces arrayed against Iraq in Saudi Arabia.

Christian leaders meet in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — Christian leaders from Iraq and other Middle East countries meeting in Baghdad Monday urged Christians worldwide to encourage efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. Archbishop Rafael I. Bedawid, the patriarch of the Chaldean Church in Iraq, said Christians worldwide are duty bound to work to avert a war in the region. "I appeal wholeheartedly to all my brothers in Christianity to work hand-in-hand with all other people to support peace with love and justice," he said.

Britain: U.S.-Iraq talks must not include Palestine

LONDON (R) — Britain Monday welcomed an offer by U.S. President George Bush to hold talks with Iraq but said there could be no linkage with the Palestinian question. A Foreign Office statement said United Nations resolutions calling on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait were not negotiable and rejected Iraqi demands that talks include other Middle East issues, such as the Palestinian question. "As President Bush and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker have made clear, the purpose is not to negotiate with Iraq," Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg told parliament. "It is rather to leave the Iraqi leadership in no doubt as to the determination of the international community to see Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, in accordance with the requirements laid down by the U.N."

Iraq says U.S. expels INA correspondent

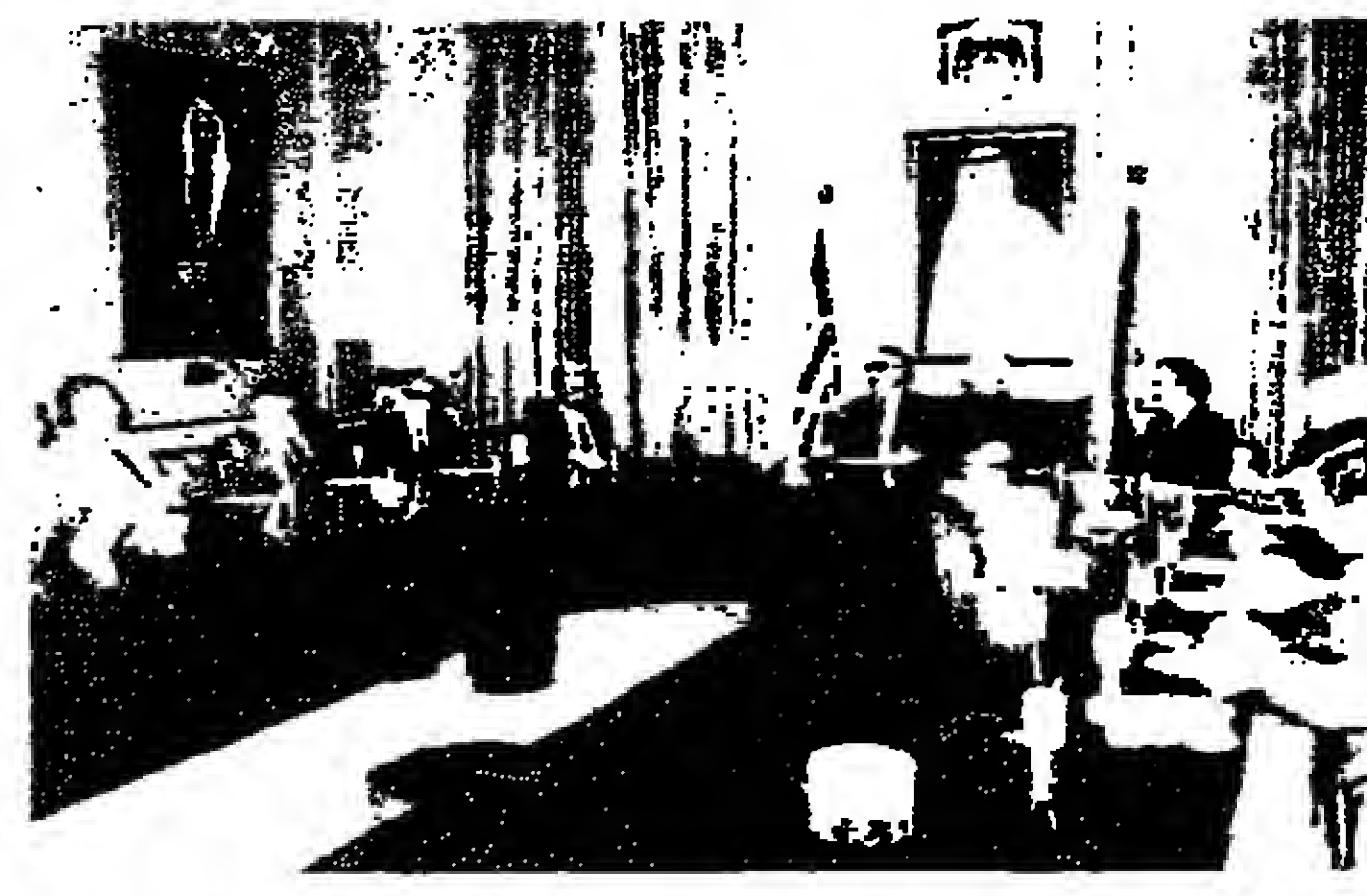
BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Monday the United States had expelled a correspondent of its official news agency INA. The government newspaper Al Jamhuriya identified the correspondent as Hisham Ali Jawad, describing him as the only Iraqi reporter in the United States. It said he had been expelled despite the fact that Iraq had allowed visits by more than 1,700 foreign correspondents, including hundreds of Americans covering the Gulf crisis.

Mubarak receives French award

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak Monday received a French award for promoting democracy and peace. Mubarak received the Louise Michel Prize from the French Centre for Political and Social Studies. French Senator Alain Poher, honorary chairman of the centre, said the prize was awarded for Mubarak's contribution to promoting democracy and his respect for human rights in Egypt.

Public sector strike ends in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Histadrut labour federation ended a two-day strike in the public sector Monday after winning concessions over wage cuts and taxes. The walkout by 500,000 state workers closed banks and stock markets and affected air and sea ports. The government, struggling to absorb a flood of Soviet immigrants, had planned to reduce the minimum wage by about a fifth to \$400 a month and introduce new taxes, including a 20 per cent levy on pension benefits.

King meets Kuwaiti team, says he is optimistic of political solution in Gulf

His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets with a Kuwaiti popular delegation (Petra photo)

that there was a misunderstanding of Jordan's stand on the Gulf crisis. The delegation affirmed that the Kuwaiti people and most Kuwaiti officials are not responsible for this misunderstanding.

The delegation also stressed the Kuwaiti people's rejection of any military solution to the crisis, because "such a solution will be catastrophic not only to Iraq and Kuwait, but also to the Arab World as a whole."

The delegation lauded King Hussein's efforts and said

Kuwaitis blame Iraq for Western intervention in Gulf

By Sami Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A spokesman for a visiting popular Kuwaiti delegation Monday blamed Iraq for the Western intervention in the Gulf, saying that the U.S. had found "the proper excuse" for their presence in the region.

Ahmad Rab'i, a former Kuwaiti parliamentarian, held Iraq and its takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2 responsible for the foreign presence in the

region. "The important question here is 'who is responsible for the foreign presence?' The U.S. was looking for an excuse for this presence and found the proper one with the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait to intervene in this manner," Rab'i said.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, he stressed that he rejected the foreign intervention "in the Gulf crisis in general."

"We cannot be against fore-

(Continued on page 5)

Jordanian, Kuwaiti popular perceptions wide apart on crisis

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN — A Kuwaiti bid — the first of its kind since the eruption of the Gulf crisis — to win over Jordanian public opinion has underscored the gulf between the Jordanian popular attitude and the Kuwaiti approach to the problem.

Several meetings between an unofficial Kuwaiti delegation, which arrived here Saturday, and Jordanians indicate that there are important differences in priorities and perceptions between the two.

From the Kuwaiti point of view, an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is the key to a solution and an objective in itself. For the majority of Jordanian

groups, however, an acceptable settlement should also — in addition to an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait — guarantee Iraqi security and Arab sovereignty and independence from what is viewed as "American hegemony."

Many Jordanians who met with the Kuwaiti delegation

(Continued on page 5)

said a protracted standoff with Iraq would be costly.

Bahrain Radio quoted Minister Abdul Salam Mohammad Saeed as saying a lack of powdered milk contributed to the deterioration of the children's health.

Saeed said that "1,416 children

under the age of five years have died in recent months because of the sanctions imposed on medicines for Iraq."

"The lack of necessary medicines to continue treatment for the children caused the deterioration of their health conditions..."

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq says 1,400 children died because of sanctions

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Monday that more than 1,400 children under the age of five have died because of a medicine shortage caused by the U.N. trade embargo.

Meanwhile the United States emphasised the economic impact of the Gulf crisis, and one official

said a protracted standoff with Iraq would be costly.

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(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued on page 5)

"The decision of the Security Council spells out a temporary opening, in which it is possible and necessary to find a peaceful, political outcome to the conflict. Everything must be done so this chance is not squandered."

"A dialogue between the USA and Iraq would have an important significance for finding practical approaches to unlocking the extremely dangerous situation in the 'Persian' Gulf," it said.

The spirit and letter of the

resolution gives a realistic chance for the prevention of the very worst turn of events... a military explosion," said the statement read by Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said a U.N. Security Council resolution authorising the use of force to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait was a step forward in the quest for a peaceful solution.

The statement was issued the same day an influential group of hardline Soviet deputies called on President Mikhail Gorbachev to address parliament on the Gulf crisis.

"Our initial reaction to the

resolution was that any

intervention would be a violation of international law," said the

statement. "But we have to

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(Continued on page 5)

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Beyond Gulf crisis, U.S. faces long-term problem

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

WASHINGTON — No matter how the conflict in the Gulf is resolved, the United States is certain to face vexing long-term problems in the Middle East and seasoned analysts predict years of instability in the region.

Winning a war against Iraq would strengthen two regional powers — Syria and Iran — who are inherently hostile to the United States.

Any negotiated settlement that would leave the Iraqi power structure intact, experts say, would allow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to portray himself as the man who made U.S. President George Bush blink, thus bolstering his claim to leadership of the Arab masses.

In an astonishing about-face, Bush announced Friday he would send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad for direct talks with Saddam on the crisis. Previously, Washington had ruled out face-to-face meetings as long as Iraq occupied Kuwait.

As the Bush administration pondered its options since Aug. 2, experts say, little attention has been paid to the long-term implications of U.S. actions, their impact on the regional balance of power, and the role Washington wants to play once the crisis is over.

"They (the administration) do not appear to have thought it through," said Yabia Sadowski, a Middle East expert at the Washington-based Brookings Institution. "They have been busy with short-term crisis management."

Washington's dilemma was brought into sharp focus by hearings on the Gulf crisis before the Senate Armed Services Committee which opened as the United States won United Nations blessing to go to war with Iraq if it refused to give up Kuwait by Jan. 15.

Crushing Iraq by military force, the committee was told, would destabilise the Middle East, unleash anti-American sentiment throughout the region, and require a long-term U.S. military presence.

In turn, if Saddam would continue in power as a result of a negotiated withdrawal, the

United States would lose credibility in the eyes of its closest Arab allies and its strategic partner in the Middle East, Israel.

"Saddam Hussein will continue to be a destabilising force," former Defence Secretary James Schlesinger told the Senate committee. But he added that if Saddam were removed, the region would not be stable either.

The sight of the United States inflicting a devastating defeat on Arab country... may result in enmity directed at the United States for an extended period among the public of some of the (Arab) nations now allied to us," he said.

Schlesinger and other witnesses recalled that the United States tilted towards Iraq in its war with Iran to prevent the Iranian government of Ayatollah Khomeini from dominating the Middle East.

If Iraq were defeated in a war with the United States, he

NEWS ANALYSIS

said, Iran would emerge as the dominant regional power. Syria, now a tactical ally in the anti-Iraq coalition, would strive for the same role.

Neither the Iranian leadership nor Syria's President Hafez Al Assad, for years a chief target of U.S. enmity, had long-term policy aims compatible with those of Washington.

Some analysts say that in Iraq itself, the removal of Saddam would bring to the fore forces implacably hostile to the United States.

The country's three main opposition forces are united in deep hatred of the United States," said Rashid Khalidi of the University of Chicago's Centre for Middle Eastern studies.

He referred to the Iraqi Communist Party, Al Dawa, a clandestine organisation of Shi'ite Muslims, and Kurdish opposition groups who feel the United States betrayed them by withdrawing support in the mid-1970s.

"After a successful destruction of the Iraqi army we might find ourselves defending Iraqi territory against Syrian and Iranian territorial ambitions,"

Kissinger's view

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said Sunday U.S.-Iraq talks might damage the unity of the anti-Iraq coalition.

Appearing on U.S. television, Kissinger said Bush's offer to send Baker for talks with Saddam would also encourage other nations to talk separately to Iraq.

"I gag at the idea of the secretary of state arriving in a state that is holding a thousand American hostages, that has looted and raped a neighbouring country, which has disobeyed 12 U.N. resolutions that we have sponsored, and against which we have deployed so many forces," said Kissinger, who was the Vietnam war-era secretary of state in the administration of President Richard Nixon.

"There must be another way of conducting a negotiation with it than this way," Kissinger said.

Israelis seal off homes

(Continued from page 1)

The unified leadership leaflet also praised the recent spate of attacks inside Israel and along its borders which have killed or injured several Israeli civilians and soldiers.

The leaflet called the Egyptian border guard who killed four Israelis and wounded 25 on a road near the Red Sea town of Eilat on Nov. 25, a hero of Palestine.

"Greetings to our people... and heroes of the latest suicide missions in Lebanon and Palestine," said the closing statement.

Police announced they would tighten controls on Palestinians entering Israel in the wake of Sunday's attack.

Radio stations reported increased checks Monday morning on Palestinian-owned vehicles entering the Tel Aviv area from the occupied West Bank.

In the attack Sunday three Palestinian youths from the West Bank boarded a bus on a busy street and later stood up and killed four passengers.

A 24-year-old Israeli later died

of throat and chest wounds.

Three other Israeli passengers were also wounded.

A police demolitions expert who helped overtake the attackers on the bus, shot and killed one of them, Jafaar Omar Fares Dawikat, 17, as the youth brandished a knife at him.

The other two assailants were injured. One was shot in the hand, and the other was beaten by passersby, Israeli reports said. They were later identified as Mohammad Abdul Majid Sawalha, 19, and Munir Hussein Ahmad Sawalha, 17.

Soldiers sealed the home of Dawikat's family in the area of Nablus and the two Sawalha family houses in nearby Azmut Monday morning, the army said.

Army radio noted the sealings, done routinely to the homes of activists, was carried out more quickly this time to avoid giving the families time to appeal to the supreme court.

Since the three suspects were all from large families, the sealing of the houses put 37 people out on the street.

Muslim fundamentalists,

meanwhile, called a general strike in the nearby town of Qalqilia in solidarity with Dawikat, the slain attacker.

According to Arab reports, Dawikat was jailed for six months two years ago for on charges of activism with the Fatah movement. He was also reportedly wounded in the leg a year ago in a clash with soldiers.

Israeli reports stressed that the three Palestinians had no previous criminal or guerrilla records.

The Ma'ariv daily wrote in a front-page commentary that the suspects appeared to typify a new generation of activists wary of stone-throwing clashes with soldiers in which Arabs often are shot.

Left-wing legislator Haim Oron said that the continued bloodletting showed the need for a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Every incident proves that only a political process can get us out of this bloody circle," Oron said, adding that calls for vengeance would only inflame the situation.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME ONE

12:30 ... Cartoon

12:45 ... L'école des fées

12:50 ... News in French

12:55 ... Aujourd'hui en Jordanie

12:59 ... Jordanian International Church Tel:

13:00 ... News in Hebrew

13:05 ... News in Arabic

13:10 ... Charles in Charge

13:15 ... Documentary "New World Order"

13:20 ... News in English

13:25 ... Our House

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swindon Tel: 810740.

Assemblies of God Church, Tel: 637265, 683326.

St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590.

Church of the Ascension Tel: 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel: 661737

Trinity Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Ascension Tel: 623541.

Anglican Church Tel: 622393, Tel: 625543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 772621.

St. Esdras Church Tel: 771751.

Al-Bayan International Church Tel:

683262.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel:

811296.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 815817, 654932.

PROGRAMME TWO

12:45 ... L'école des fées

12:50 ... News in French

12:55 ... Aujourd'hui en Jordanie

12:59 ... Jordanian International Church Tel:

13:00 ... News in Hebrew

13:05 ... News in Arabic

13:10 ... Charles in Charge

13:15 ... Documentary "New World Order"

13:20 ... News in English

13:25 ... Our House

13:30 ... Charles in Charge

13:35 ... Our House

13:40 ... Charles in Charge

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17:45 ... Our House

17:50 ... Charles in Charge

17:55 ... Our House

18:00 ... Charles in Charge

18:05 ... Our House

jails

Big turnout reported for Chamber of Commerce elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — A big turnout of voters was reported at the Professional Association Complex Monday for the election of a 21-seat council — with a mandate for four years — for the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

A total of 28 candidates are running for the council seats and at least 40 per cent of the total number of 17,159 eligible voters was expected to cast ballots.

The candidates are constituted in three groups and five independent.

The voting was supervised by a committee headed by Islam Al Khatib, Amman deputy governor, and six committees were assigned the task of counting the votes at the Amman Chamber of Commerce offices.

Khatib said that the voting was scheduled to end by 8 p.m. Monday, but that voters would be given a chance to come to the voting centre by Tuesday at the latest.

Khatib said that out of the 28 candidates 10 were members of the incumbent board, running for a second term.

The various voting groups had been carrying out an intensive campaign in the local press declaring their programmes for improving the chamber's performance and providing better services to the merchants and business in the Amman area.

Germany to grant DM 20m commodity loan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian government is to receive a DM 20 million in commodity loan from the Federal Republic of Germany, to be channelled through the German Development Bank, payable over the coming 30 years, in accordance with an agreement signed at the Ministry of Planning here Monday.

The disbursement of the soft loan will take effect once Jordan concludes arrangements with the bank which will define the terms of the loan and the way in which it will be used, according to a statement following the signing ceremony.

The statement said that the loan was not part of the capital assistance programme which is being given by Germany to Jordan.

"Several cold fronts have now started affecting western and central European regions and they are gradually moving towards the Mediterranean. These fronts are causing cold polar winds to push towards the Mediterranean and Jordan will be affected by them by Thursday when there is a good chance of rain," Abanda said in his statement.

In reviewing the rainy season



His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives WHO Director General Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima and WHO Regional Director Hussein Jazairi (second left).

Attending was Health Minister Mohammad Al Zaben (Petra photo)

King honours WHO officials

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Monday Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, the World Health Organisation director general, who was accompanied by WHO's Regional Director Hussein Jazairi.

During the audience, Jordan's efforts to provide health services to the evacuees from the Gulf were discussed.

King Hussein conferred on Nakajima and Jazairi the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order in recognition of their humanitarian roles and their efforts, through the WHO, to serve victims of disasters and wars.

Health Minister Mohammad Al Zaben was present at the audience.

Nakajima was also received by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah for discussions on Jordan-WHO cooperation in health affairs and the general health situation among the

thousands of evacuees who came to Jordan from the Gulf region.

Badran reviewed with the WHO head health services Jordan offered to nearly one million evacuees so far, which entailed recruiting hundreds of doctors, nurses and paramedics for the evacuation.

The prime minister also gave details about the financial losses Jordan incurred as a result of giving shelter, food, health and transportation services to the evacuees who have been fleeing the Gulf region after the start of the Gulf crisis Aug. 2.

Badran appealed to the World Health Organisation to compensate Jordan which, he said, was the worst affected party in the region as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Nakajima voiced WHO's appreciation of Jordan's private and public organisations' efforts to help evacuees of 100 nationalities, and promised that the organisation would exert all efforts to

provide Jordan with urgent health assistance and to supply the Kingdom with medicine much of which was used for the evacuees.

The minister of planning briefed Nakajima on the present health situation in the country and the extra burden the Kingdom had to shoulder by providing assistance to the evacuees on the one hand and by offering health care now to the thousands of Jordanian expatriates who have returned to the Kingdom following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Nakajima said that WHO understood the difficulties Jordan was facing and it would provide medicine, services for related to health, maintenance and training to personnel.

Nakajima, who is on a week-long visit to Jordan, which started Saturday, is accompanied by Dr. Hussein Jazairi, WHO regional director, and other WHO officials.

Nakajima is being treated at the intensive care unit.

Cold depression, rain expected by Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Rain, which has long been expected in Jordan, is predicted before the weekend, as the front that caused high temperatures has now receded giving way to low depression that will be affecting the eastern Mediterranean region as of Thursday, according to Director General of Meteorology Department Ali Abanda.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Abanda said that heavy rains during December normally give reason for optimism that the agricultural season would be abundant.

"Several cold fronts have now started affecting western and central European regions and they are gradually moving towards the Mediterranean. These fronts are causing cold polar winds to push towards the Mediterranean and Jordan will be affected by them by Thursday when there is a good chance of rain," Abanda said in his statement.

Last Friday the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs organised prayers at mosques all over the country invoking rain.

Blood donation

RAMTHA (Petra) — Blood donation campaign started Monday at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). The week-long campaign is organised by JUST's Health Education Club. Dr. Thabit Jireisat, who is supervising the campaign, described the turnout of students to donate their blood as good and highlighted the cooperation of those in charge of the Blood Bank at Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid. He said the campaign was launched to make up for the shortage at the blood bank.

Jordan is among the recipients of the largest per capita amount of German aid. Since 1955 Jordan has received about DM 1.42 billion within the framework of economic cooperation.

JD 2.5m worth of narcotics burnt

AMMAN (Petra) — Narcotics estimated to be worth JD 2.5 million at street value went up in flames when they were burnt in the cement factory kilns Monday by the Public Security Department (PSD).

PSD spokesman said that the haul burnt in the kilns included 2,500 kilograms of hashish, 1,100 grammes of heroin, 200 grammes of opium and 321,396 captagon pills.

The narcotics, he said, were seized in 85-smuggling cases involving 150 persons of local, non-Jordanian Arab and foreign nationalities, all referred to trial.

According to the PSD spokesman, the drugs were being trafficked through Jordanian territory to neighbouring Arab states when they were seized and the smugglers arrested.

He said that the drugs were seized between January 1, 1989 and June 30, 1990.

PSD assistant director for administration and representatives of the judiciary and concerned government ministries were present at the burning of the narcotics in the Fuheis factory.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of 39 paintings by Iraqi artist Haimat Muhammad Ali at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- * Exhibition of British archaeological projects in Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition of Palestinian embroidery at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Plastic art exhibition by Jordanian artist Anwar Haddadin at Muta University.

LECTURE

- Lecture entitled "1990 Excavations and Surveys in Wadi Al Yabis, Northern Jordan" by Prof. Gaetano Palumbo at Yarmouk University's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology 3:00 p.m.

FILM

- German silent film entitled "Das Kabinett des Dr. Caligari" (1919 production; presented as part of the Fritz-Lang-festival) at the Goethe Institute 8:00 p.m.

19 injured, 15 cars damaged in accident

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At least 19 people were injured and bruised and more than 15 cars were damaged in a road accident which occurred in Amman Monday.

The accident, the worst of its kind to be reported in the Amman region over the past two years, occurred Al Muzdar district downtown Amman when a bus operated by the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) sped down the slope of the Muzdar hill when its driver lost control over it possibly due to faulty brakes, according to a spokesman for the Public Security Department (PSD).

The bus, which at the time was full of passengers, hit cars parked along the main road in the Muzdar district where it was heading to Al Wihdat area. Eyewitnesses said it must have been doing 100 kilometres an hour.

Apart from hitting cars, the bus damaged several stores along the street leading to the Italian Hospital before coming to a final stop at Saq Al Sali area nearby.

Scored of civil defence officers with their vehicles and equipment rushed to the scene of the accident to carry the injured to hospital. The victims were taken to Al Bashir Hospital and the Italian Hospital, nearest to the area, and cranes were used to lift the damaged cars from the street.

Contacted by telephone, Al Bashir Hospital said that 13 persons in all had been admitted for treatment and that all but two had remained and were described in medium condition.

The Italian Hospital said all the six persons admitted were still being treated. A doctor in charge said that five of the victims were in medium condition but the sixth was described in dangerous condition. The victim is being treated at the intensive care unit.

He said that thundershows occurred in the second half of October in eastern and badia regions, followed by cold fronts with rain in the central regions in the first half of November. But he said that rain was scarce so far throughout the whole area of the Mediterranean Sea and North Africa due to the presence of a high depression which brought in dry and relatively hot winds that caused a rise in temperature.

He said that thundershows occurred in the second half of October in eastern and badia regions, followed by cold fronts with rain in the central regions in the first half of November. But he said that rain was scarce so far throughout the whole area of the Mediterranean Sea and North Africa due to the presence of a high depression which brought in dry and relatively hot winds that caused a rise in temperature.

According to Abanda, over the last 66 years there were 18 years without rain in October and November, and 1990 was one of them. He said rain was expected during December.

Last Friday the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs organised prayers at mosques all over the country invoking rain.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega (Petra photo)
King Hussein, Nicaraguan leader hold talks on Gulf crisis

American proposal a turning point — Ortega

By Serene Halasa and Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, said that Iraq was willing to support a peaceful settlement to all the conflicts in the region, including the Palestinian problem. Ortega, who concluded a second visit to Iraq this month, held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein with whom he discussed the recent American initiative.

"I think that the American proposal is a turning point where different views are exchanged," Ortega told the Jordan Times. On the other hand, he added, it is "a waste of time" like American Vice President Dan Quayle had said recently, then the proposal "will pave the way for an American-led military confrontation," Ortega said, elaborating further on the nature of the initiative, but stressed that continuous efforts were exerted to achieve peace in the region.

During his visit to Iraq the former Nicaraguan president held extensive talks with Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and president of the Palestine state. "We talked about the Palestinian problem and the need to link it with other problems in the area," Ortega said, describing the talks with Arafat as being "very important."

Earlier Ortega had referred to the American side would be lenient

in order to "work together to reach a peaceful solution," he said.

"I will keep working with different delegations and listen to different views from North and South on the situation, to reach a settlement to the crisis," Ortega said. He also added that he was working on a peace initiative stemming from talks between North and South. Ortega refused to elaborate further on the nature of the initiative, but stressed that continuous efforts were exerted to achieve peace in the region.

Asked about the latest United Nations resolution authorising the use of force against Iraq if it did not withdraw from Kuwait, Ortega said that this resolution went against the spirit of the United Nations Charter. "The Charter calls for peaceful settlements of world crises, but for a military confrontation to solve this crisis," Ortega said.

His Majesty King Hussein received Ortega at the Royal Court. King Hussein and Ortega reviewed the latest development in the Gulf crisis and the outcome of Ortega's visits to several member states of the non-aligned movement in order to reach a political solution to the crisis.

Wednesday Ortega leaves for Germany to hold talks with former Chancellor Willy Brandt.

School curricula should include development programmes — Hamdan

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Monday opened a four-day consultative meeting on population education and development with delegates calling for the incorporation of the development programme into the schools' curricula.

Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Mohammad Hamdan said that increasing people's awareness of the problems that arise from population explosion was important in solving this problem.

"The population explosion is threatening the existence of mankind," Hamdan said. "And by incorporating the development programme into school curricula and adult education facilities, people would become aware of the dangers of the continuously increasing world population."

He added that it was necessary

to show the public the relationship between the population explosion and economic and social factors.

Hamdan pointed out that two world conferences were held to discuss this problem. "The population explosion was discussed in a conference in Bucharest in 1974 and in Mexico in 1984."

"In 1984 a first conference was held in the Arab World and it took place in Amman," Hamdan said.

Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Kazim, personal representative of the director general of UNESCO in the Arab World and director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) said that increasing world populations have already created many catastrophes.

"We have seen famine and disaster already," Kazim said. "And I want to sound the warning siren so that we all find solutions for this problem."

Kazim added that the meetings to discuss the subject of "popula-

tion explosion were not only "festivals to enjoy," and that action was necessary to implement the suggestions that would be brought up at such meetings to solve the population issue.

"We are in a historical bind as Arabs and as human beings," Kazim said. "And responsibility is essential for the increase of the Arab World's awareness of the crises associated with the population explosion."

Kazim said the most important thing was to start implementing the programmes. "We must adopt a positive attitude and begin with a great deal of determination to inform the Arab World of this population education and development programme."

"We have seen famine and disaster already," Kazim said. "And I want to sound the warning siren so that we all find solutions for this problem."

Kazim added that the meetings to discuss the subject of "popula-

Mohammad Ali leaves with released Americans

AMMAN (AP) — A Tristar jetliner carrying boxing great Mohammad Ali and 15 Americans released by Iraq returned to Amman Monday after developing technical problems over Jordanian airspace.

"There was nothing serious. It was a simple technical failure in the engine," said Royal Jordanian Public Relations Director Samir Mutawi.

"The captain preferred to clear this slight technical fault and because he was close to Amman he decided to return and fix it," Mutawi said.

Mutawi refused to specify the nature of the problem.

All passengers aboard the aircraft were reported safe after flight RJ267, destined for New York, made an emergency landing at Amman Airport 30 minutes after takeoff.

Following a seven-hour wait at Amman Airport the same aircraft was readied and took off at 6:30 p.m.

Two Canadians were also aboard the flight to New York. They had been released by Iraq after three Canadian parliamentarians travelled to Baghdad to meet with Iraqi officials.

Hussein in Baghdad last week, intends to return to Iraq for Christmas to try to win the release of more Americans, said Arthur Morrison, Ali's spokesman.

No details were immediately available on the whereabouts of an unknown number of Americans who, Morrison, said were released by Iraq after an appeal by Ali.

The Americans were employees of a company called Lummus and were being flown out of Baghdad on a chartered flight, Morrison said.

The Britons were among a group of 15 whose release was obtained by left-wing parliamentarian Tony Benn who visited Baghdad last month.

Reporters were not allowed to speak to any of the passengers Monday. The Britons, Americans and Canadians were rushed through the departure lounge away from cameramen and reporters.

Iraq refers to the Westerners as "guests" and calls them "heroes of peace." It holds many of them at strategic sites to deter an attack by the multinational forces assembled

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

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Peace chance improves

IN A French television interview a couple of days ago Iraqi President Saddam Hussein put the chances of war in the Gulf at "fifty-fifty." One would prefer to view the recent developments set in motion by U.S. President George Bush's offer to talk with his Iraqi counterpart as making the chances even better in favour of peace. When the Iraqi leader stated also in the wake of Washington's recent overture that there is plenty of room to arrive at a compromise solution provided the intended talks are genuine and profound he effectively tilted the pendulum in the direction of peace. That was not the first time Baghdad has hinted that it is willing to compromise provided there is an interlocutor willing to listen. Iraq's initiative of Aug. 12 had all the ingredients necessary for a compromise but at that time no adversary was willing to see that there was an opportunity for a peaceful way out of the Kuwaiti conflict. When one talks about a certain "compromise" it is obvious that Iraq is ready and able to entertain a military withdrawal from Kuwait under appropriate circumstances. It would not have been a tragedy to accommodate an Arab side by making commitments that the Palestinian question and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict would be dealt with in earnest concurrently with or immediately after the resolution of the Gulf crisis. All that Washington and London had to say then was to make an open and "unequivocal declaration that a U.N. conference on the Middle East would be convened and for the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to put their seal of consent on such a move. This issue of dealing with the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflicts will no doubt come up when the talks between Baghdad and Washington get going.

Surely it is not beyond the ingenuity of the West to find a formula that binds them to the genuine search for peace in the Middle East without appearing to have succumbed to pressure. In other words there is room here too for a compromise and the U.S.-Iraqi projected talks can entertain such an eventuality without difficulty. Meanwhile, Washington removed another big hurdle in the face of the chances of peace in the Gulf when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker affirmed that Washington has no designs on Iraq, its territorial integrity or its defence capability in the context of a peaceful resolution. Thus he assuaged the fears of the Arab side that Washington was bent on the destruction of that most viable Arab country. During the past few months there were repeated reckless statements from the U.S. which were fanned by Israel and its ardent supporters in the U.S. that toppling the Iraqi regime and the destruction of Iraq as a military power was an integral part of the overall American objective in the region. Baker's assurances to the contrary, though not enough to assuage all Arab fears and tribulations, will nevertheless help lay to rest not only Baghdad's fears but also the fears of the rest of the Arab World that the destruction of Iraq is no longer an objective of the West. It is equally assuring that Baker's statements on all the other issues touching on the security and stability of the region, including the presence and development of mass destructive weapons, are matters to be dealt with independently of the immediate Kuwaiti situation. Baghdad can now talk in a much more relaxed mood and in the process can afford to be infinitely more forthcoming on the terms of the aspired-to peace accord.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT is not true that the United States had offered a peace initiative to Iraq because it was Iraq which first declared it was willing to discuss the question peacefully and was ready for dialogue with Washington to achieve peace and security in the Gulf, said Al Ra'i daily Monday. When Iraq announced its Aug. 12 initiative and said that it was willing to withdraw from Kuwait, the world realised that Baghdad was extending a hand of peace to all concerned parties and was willing to end the issue peacefully, said the paper. During the past months Washington and its allies had been beating the drums of war and issuing one threat after another having ensured sanctions on Iraq, the paper added. The United States has been making no secret of its enmity towards the Arabs in general and Iraq in particular, and has not concealed its desire to destroy Iraq's infrastructure and liquidate Saddam Hussein, the paper noted. It said that the American people's refusal to fight a war to protect undemocratic regimes and to ensure the flow of oil plus the Iraqi firm stand vis-a-vis threats coming from the West, have forced Washington to respond favourably to Iraq's calls for peace and dialogue.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily casts doubts on Moscow's stand with regard to the Gulf crisis and says that its attitude is indeed regrettable. Basal Ayesh notes that since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis in August, the Soviet Union first announced it was not willing to participate in a war on Iraq regardless of the world condemnation of its invasion of Kuwait and the deployment of forces in the Gulf. Later however, Moscow stressed the need for a peaceful solution for the problem but only a short while afterwards it declared that it could take part in a war with a symbolic force to evict the Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the writer notes. He says that Moscow has actually chosen to serve as a bystander, watching the events and America's aggression without committing itself to anything to help solve the issue peacefully and awaiting the outcome of aggression so that it can have a piece of the cake and share with others any bonus that might come out of this military adventure. Moscow's attitude is more or less similar to the Roman governor of Jerusalem Petrus who handed over Jesus Christ to the Jews to crucify him, and at the same time announced that it was not his fault and he was quite innocent hoping to be absolved of any blame, the writer points out. Ayesh asks whether the Soviet Union's destiny has fallen under the mercy of the Zionists' whims and desires after that country had adopted "perestroika" and the "glasnost" strategies. He says that the Soviet leaders should realise that they might not be able to take part in an aggression on Iraq even with a symbolic force.

The View from Fourth Circle

Texas Rangers and the Rest of the West

By Rami G. Khouri

WHATEVER his motives may have been, George Bush has done something sensible in proposing talks with the Iraqi government, and one hopes that these days will mark a turning point for the better in the Gulf crisis (though it was pretty mean of him, at this moment of hope for at least psychological detente, to let loose Dan Quayle on us...). Both Washington and Baghdad now have to come to grips with the hard new realities of the world, and act accordingly during the upcoming talks.

For Americans, the Texas Rangers and the Rest of the West, the new realities mean that the expressions of pan-Arab identity and national political expression must be accepted, rather than confronted, as the fundamental power balance in this part of the world shifts. The forces of Arab domestic autocracy are losing ground, while the fusion of the forces of democratic pluralism, pan-Arab nationalism and Islamic fundamentalism is gaining ground (note the Jordanian Parliament as a good example of trends which should dominate much of the rest of the Arab World in coming years).

For Iraq, the new realities mean that it will have to withdraw from Kuwait, because the entire world, including all the Arab states, agree on this point. I would think that Iraq has much to gain politically from announcing during the coming six weeks that it is prepared to withdraw from Kuwait, if a satisfactory structure is established which would allow bilateral disputes with Kuwait to be resolved fairly. Iraq and all the Arabs will emerge with considerable political gains, because the fundamental political issues of concern to the vast majority of Arabs have been dramatically placed on the agenda of the world.

Specifically, political trends in the Arab World and Arab-international relations are likely to change for the better, because the Gulf crisis to date can count five clear achievements:

1. It has pointed out the deep bitterness and anger throughout much of the Arab World against the politically docile surplus wealth of the Gulf oil-producers which is largely invested outside the Arab World. Inter-Arab trade, aid, investment and labour flows should become more mutually productive and rational in the wake of the crisis, given the recognition of the repercussions of the wide socio-economic disparities within the Arab World.
2. It has pointed out the importance of democracy and participatory government as a right of all Arab nationals, and is likely to speed up the spread of democratic pluralism

By Howard Gorler

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will speak to the leader of Israel's closest ally for the first time in 10 months when he meets U.S. President George Bush in December.

Bush issued a White House invitation last month apparently to try to ease the strains caused by Shamir's refusal in March to accept U.S. proposals for peace talks with Palestinians, said Israeli spokesman Avi Pazner.

The leaders have corresponded but not spoken since a phone call last February. Bush had meanwhile talked regularly to his Arab allies in the Gulf crisis — states officially at war with Israel despite a lack of hostilities.

"I think President Bush is interested in opening a fresh page," Pazner, Shamir's senior adviser, told Reuters. He said the meeting would take place on December 11.

"I think there is interest from the American side to halt speculation about the worsening of the relationship — and to invite Shamir is the normal thing to do," he said.

Pazner dismissed Israeli press

speculation the invitation to visit Washington while Shamir was planning to be in the United States was Israel's reward for not complaining too loudly about the U.S.-Syrian summit meeting in December.

Bush met President Hafez Assad of Syria, Israel's arch-enemy, for talks on maintaining an Arab-American alliance against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein who triggered the Gulf crisis by seizing Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Although surely disappointed, Shamir refrained from criticising the talks with Assad, apparently preferring to keep Israel's profile low in the Gulf crisis and avoid further friction with Washington.

The United States supplies three billion dollars a year in aid to Israel but relations are chilled by frustrated peace efforts, Shamir's handling of the Palestinian uprising and the continued settlement of Jews in the occupied Arab lands.

At one point Bush's Secretary of State, James Baker, said Israel could call the White House when

throughout the Arab countries, including the Gulf, Iraq, Syria and others.

3. It has rekindled the ambers of Arab nationalism, and heightened awareness of a) the ravages of the dismemberment of the Arab Nation by the British and French after World War I, and b) the need to integrate pan-Arab human, natural and material resources in order to achieve Arab aspirations to development and dignity.
4. It has bluntly reawakened the world to international double standards applied in different conflicts in the region, and has added a sense of urgency to resolving the Palestine issue in a just and permanent manner.

5. It has forced the Western powers, especially the United States, to look beyond the flag waving and the sloganising of the "new world order," and to start recognising that there is nothing new, worldly or orderly about a global vision which sees freedom, democracy and integration in Eastern Europe but domestic autocracy, economic regression, regional dismemberment and international subjugation and exploitation in the Arab World.

These are powerful gains, which should be nurtured and harnessed for future Arab objectives. I believe they can be, and thus we may be entering a moment of the most significant historical change in the region since the days of European infancy and duplicity in the first half of this century. The urgent priority now is to avert a catastrophic war in the Gulf and simultaneously to launch a political dialogue on all the outstanding issues which plague the region.

Iraq must realise that it cannot stand alone against the world, and if it maintains its rigid position, the world will liberate Kuwait through force. The economic, human and political cost of a Gulf war will be great, especially to the Arabs. I suspect that this is the moment for Iraqi leadership to assess its gains and losses to date, and to act accordingly. I also suspect that it has done precisely this, which explains its positive response to the Bush proposal for talks (along with the cigarettes and fruits and vegetables to the embassies in Kuwait...).

The fact that Washington and Baghdad are soon likely to be talking directly in a highly visible dialogue of senior officials is going to make the Arabs look rather foolish if they remain as they are today, split into two camps that barely talk to one another.

Therefore, I would look for a serious effort at inter-Arab reconciliation in the very near future. This is vital because if Iraq is going to make concessions, it will not make them to the Texas Rangers and the Rest of the West; it will make them in the context of the Arab World, within a larger framework of international legal and moral guarantees — but that Arab World is now two Arab Worlds that have to get back together again.

This process of intra-Arab reconciliation seems to me the most important aspect of the next phase of this region's history, for it will have to include a process of sorting out the true from the false among Arab political sentiments, and sorting out the merchants and the nationalists among the Arab political leaders. When the marines go back home, the Arab World will embark on a long-term process of political accountability and reorganisation which will sort out our Marcoses from our Aquinos. A better Arab World will emerge from the process.

If we can resolve the immediate crisis without a war, the net result of the conflict shall have been to have violently shaken up all the elements of this region which have combined to bring us to a historical low point in the late 1980s. One can argue, as I do, that the occupation of Kuwait was not the most appropriate way to resolve a key local problem which symbolised many of the larger problems of the region. But such arguments are meaningless, because Iraq did occupy and annex Kuwait, and therefore we have to deal with the real world.

The real world tells us that there are a score of deeply complex and often historical problems that are root causes of this present crisis. If Iraq plays its diplomatic cards carefully, it should be able to call in the assortment of hints, gestures, confessions, promises and offers that Western and Arab capitals have made in recent months vis-a-vis key Arab and international issues — such as resolving the Palestine problem, redressing inter-Arab imbalances, implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions with equal vigour in all cases, or applying a single standard of international morality and law to all conflicts in the region.

This seems to me a major victory for the cause of Arab rights and justice, as well as for regional stability and international peace. The Iraqis will be able to claim considerable credit for such achievements in a post-conflict era — if they can use the dialogue that seems about to begin to reorient the resolution of the region's problems from a military to a political mode.

Still good friends



expect Shamir to raise new ideas on the Arab-Israeli conflict, given the focus now on the Gulf crisis.

"We may have differences. We don't have to agree on everything," Pazner said, insisting however, "We can still remain good friends."

Menem magic being tested as austerity begins to bite

By Ed McCullough
The Associated Press

Buenos Aires, Argentina — President Carlos Menem's enemies wonder how he gets away with cracking down on unions, business, the armed forces and even his own Peronist Party.

Members say there is tension between ageing leaders inside the country and some militant guerrillas in exile who disapprove of the leadership's suspension of armed struggle.

The ANC, founded in 1912, has become a coalition of forces often united only by opposition to apartheid. As apartheid eases, ANC moderates and radicals will split, the analysts said.

Khaniyle said the return of exiles would be the biggest single ANC expense in the coming months and the cost of flights home, housing and retraining was "far more" than the millions of dollars secured by Mandela's fund-raising trips overseas.

He said the ANC would ask for funds for the exiles from business but Pretoria also had to accept its "responsibility."

Business spokesmen say that while some might help, they would require the ANC to tone down its leftist policies.

Another source of dissent is the appointment of Mandela's wife Winnie to head the ANC's social welfare division.

Mrs. Mandela faces trial next year on charges of kidnapping and assault in the case of a youth murdered by one of her aides.

A militant revered by radical youths, Mrs. Mandela causes unease in some ANC circles with her frequent outspoken comments.

Asked about his wife's relationship to ANC policy-making, Nelson Mandela said: "sometimes... I do not do what I should be doing — coming back home and explaining to my wife very carefully the decisions we have taken and their implications."

five adults lacks full-time work. The austral is greatly overvalued.

Despite all that, Argentina has managed to avert economic collapse, political crisis, social unrest and military insurrection. Catastrophe is always possible in a country that has had six coups since 1930 and four currencies in 20 years, but it does not seem imminent.

Supporters credit Menem, but also cite a change in Argentine social values, and the president's critics tend to agree.

Historian Felix Luna, a member of Alfonso's radical civic union who finds the Menem foreign policy "excessively pro-American," said the people believe "it's absolutely necessary..."

In 16 months, Menem has wrangled the economy from state control toward free enterprise and sought closer ties with the United States at the expense of Third World nations. Those are major shifts for any Argentine president, particularly a Peronist.

He is selling off public companies the unions consider a national patrimony, used military personnel to break a strike, ended collective bargaining agreements and held pay increases for public employees far below the inflation rate.

Businessmen say that while some might help, they would require the ANC to tone down its leftist policies.

Another source of dissent is the appointment of Mandela's wife Winnie to head the ANC's social welfare division.

Col. Mohammed Ali Seineidin, who led an army rebellion in December 1988, was forced to retire and many of his followers were purged from the services.

The military budget is so low the 1990 draft had to be cut by two-thirds. Many officers have second jobs, in the civilian world.

Argentina is in a recession. Real wages are below their average values of the 1980s and one in

president's economic policy but insists: "by no definition am I a political opponent."

For all the criticism, no one has proposed a convincing alternative to the president's programme.

Menem is a son of Syrian immigrants who became a lawyer and provincial governor. As an outsider, he scored a primary victory in July 1988 over Gov. Antonio Cafiero of Buenos Aires, who party leaders thought would be the next president.

It tells Argentines in direct language that the government inherited was bankrupt, the currency almost worthless and the economic model of state control an empty shell.

Again and again, he reports that radical change was unavoidable and asks for patience during the years it will take for the sacrifices to bear fruit.

In October inflation rose by only a single digit, for the first time in 11 months. Real wages have recovered some of their lost value, interest rates have fallen and central bank reserves rose 40-fold to \$4 billion.

There also are signs, however, that the popularity of Menem and his policies is wearing thin, as that serious opposition may be forming.

Recent polls put his public support at about 50 per cent, down 30 points from its peak.

Ubaldini is mobilising workers against the economic programme and Menem's decree restricting the right to strike.

Several parties have withdrawn from the political coalition that helped Menem win the presidency in May 1989.

The Peronist governors of Corrientes and Jujuy provinces were forced to resign in October in mass protests of workers demanding back wages. The provinces said they couldn't pay because the federal government had withdrawn funds.

Iraq blamed

(Continued from page 1)

The delegation has already visited Syria and Lebanon and will visit Cairo, Sanaa and Khartoum.

The delegation was received by His Majesty King Hussein Monday. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister met with the team Sunday.

Rabi', a member of the Kuwaiti opposition who was arrested and imprisoned by the emir government several times, rejected an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, maintaining that the Arab countries who have been advocating this idea have not been able to define its meaning.

"Jordan still hopes for an Arab solution," said Rabi'. "We hope so too, but it is so complicated because no one can define an Arab solution."

He refused to accept any linkage between solutions of the Kuwaiti problem with the Palestinian issue. The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait "only complicated and made more difficult a solution to the Palestinian people," he said.

Rabi' maintained that Iraq's occupation of Kuwait had made Israel happier because "one big Arab country had occupied another smaller Arab country" and because the world attention has shifted from the intifada to the Gulf crisis.

"With the world's preoccupation with the Gulf, Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel has increased and the news of the intifada has been overshadowed by the Gulf problem," Rabi' said. Israel would never withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip because there was now a dispersed Kuwaiti people, he said.

Rabi' contended that Palestinians were misled in thinking that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait was a step towards the liberation of Palestine, and "that there was a possibility of simultaneous withdrawal and other dreams that I think are unrealistic." He said that the Palestinian reaction was understandable because of "their displacement, suffering and frustration in the last 40 years."

Rabi', a professor at Kuwait University, maintained that an Iraqi withdrawal from the oil-rich state and Baghdad's compliance with Security Council resolutions would strengthen the position of the Arab World.

"We'll be able to tell the world that we respected international legitimacy; then international legitimacy must be respected by everyone everywhere, including those related to the Palestinian question," he said.

For Rabi', the only solution to the Gulf problem is that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait as a first step, especially after the statements of U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, which he said guaranteed Iraq's safety from an attack if it did pull out.

"I don't think the world community would allow an attack on Iraq if it withdraws," he said, adding that once withdrawal takes place, problems could be discussed and negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait would start.

Rabi' believes that the lack of democracy in both Iraq

and Kuwait led to the invasion, said that he would like to see a new democratic Kuwaiti state "run by democratic institutions, not individuals."

He stressed that a new Kuwait should play a positive role in the Arab World, particularly towards the Palestinian problem. "All miserable Arab countries, of which Kuwait is one, abused the rights of Palestinians," he said.

He stressed that people should not be selective concerning countries that have abused rights of Palestinians.

The Kuwaiti visitors, who expected to meet with the speaker of the Lower House and the Foreign Affairs Committee in Parliament, were boycotted by the Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic Alliance (JANDA) and the professional unions because the delegation endorsed Western intervention in the Gulf.

Rabi' expressed regret over the boycott, saying that dialogue might have brought their points of view closer together.

Perceptions

(Continued from page 1)

expressed support for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. But they strongly resented the delegation's call for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal and Kuwait's failure to condemn outright the U.S.-led military buildup in the Gulf.

When pressed by Jordanian politicians and journalists, members of the delegation, who include former ministers as well as opposition leaders, rejected the foreign military presence in the Gulf but blamed Iraq for triggering the U.S.-led mobilisation.

As was evident during a two-hour debate, organised by the World Council Affairs Sunday evening, the Kuwaiti appeal for Jordanians to press Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait to avert a catastrophe in the region did not find much response.

"Arabs should ask Saddam to withdraw from Kuwait for the sake of the Iraqi army and to avoid a disaster in the region," was the Kuwaiti message repeated by the members of the delegation.

"We cannot press for an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. An unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait will jeopardise Iraq's and Jordan's security," countered Mahmud Al Sherif, editor-in-chief of Al Dustour newspaper.

Political commentator Hamadeh Far'a'aneh challenged the delegation to explicitly condemn the Kuwaiti and Saudi invitation of foreign troops to liberate Kuwait but later focused its campaign against the Western military build-up in the Gulf, he met with the delegation.

In general, the Brotherhood, the most influential group in Jordan, has not completely severed ties with the Gulf states. Last September a Brotherhood delegation visited Saudi Arabia but later reiterated its condemnation of the Western presence in the Gulf.

But Jordanian officials and some political analysts maintain that dialogue should be encouraged despite the evident differences between the Jordanian public opinion and the Kuwaiti approach.

The Kuwaiti move (to send a delegation here) came a little

joyed broad respect in Jordan and maintained friendly and close ties with Jordanian political groups.

When Kuwaitis started its experimentation with democracy in 1976 many Jordanians turned their eyes to Kuwait as a possible model to be emulated in the region. Many Jordanians were shocked and pained when in 1985 the emir ended the democratisation process by dissolving the parliament and imposing restrictions on the freedom of the press. The Kuwaiti government then cited fears of sabotage as a result of the tension in the Gulf emanating from the Iraq-Iran war.

But after the eruption of the Gulf crisis, ties between the Kuwaiti opposition and Jordanian political groups were reduced to a minimum. Some activists, including former Baathists and Communists, were also critical of Saddam for not seeking talks with the Kuwaiti opposition.

"I am certainly against the Kuwaiti emir. But the Iraqis are ignoring the Kuwaiti people and the popular movement in Kuwait," Dr. Yaacoub Zadiq, leader of the Jordanian Communist Party, said immediately after the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

After the Iraqi annexation of the emirate some Jordanian politicians had also felt, but few said it, that Iraq might have committed a mistake by ignoring the Kuwaiti opposition. "By annexing Kuwait Iraq had negated the identity and the existence of the Kuwaiti opposition," Dr. Jamal Al Shaer, a former Baathist, said at the time.

Some political activists here were even hoping that the Kuwaiti opposition will provide an alternative for the emir regime as one way for ending what is viewed here as the Al Sabah family's subservience to the West and as an important option to convince Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Most Jordanian politicians, however, were very disappointed in what they viewed as the Kuwaiti opposition's practical endorsement of the idea of seeking American help to solve the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute.

The Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA) — a broad coalition of leftists, independents and nationalists — refused to meet with or hold a dialogue with the Kuwaiti delegation unless it condemned outright the foreign military presence in the region.

The Muslim Brotherhood, which had initially condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait but later focused its campaign against the Western military build-up in the Gulf, he met with the delegation.

In general, the Brotherhood, the most influential group in Jordan, has not completely severed ties with the Gulf states. Last September a Brotherhood delegation visited Saudi Arabia but later reiterated its condemnation of the Western presence in the Gulf.

But Jordanian officials and some political analysts maintain that dialogue should be encouraged despite the evident differences between the Jordanian public opinion and the Kuwaiti approach.

The Kuwaiti move (to send a delegation here) came a little

bit late, but interaction and exchange of views might be essential to find a basis for a solution and for the future of inter-Arab relations," said one politician who attended Sunday's meeting.

Children

(Continued from page 1)

and complications that led to their death," Baghdad Radio quoted the minister as saying.

Shipments of medicine and food for humanitarian purposes were exempted from the U.N. Security Council trade ban.

The difficulty of delivering any goods to Iraq and the lack of foreign exchange needed to buy medicine abroad have caused a severe shortage.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said last week that many Iraqis had died because of a lack of food and medicine caused by the U.N. sanctions.

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, responding to senators' pleas to give sanctions more time to work before military action is taken against Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait, told senators Monday:

"There are consequences, costs to our coalition partners and to the country. The evidence is not all on the side of the notion that we can wait indefinitely for sanctions to work."

MOSCOW

(Continued from page 1)

Also Monday, a hard-line faction in the supreme Soviet legislature criticised the Soviet government's vote at the United Nations.

At a news conference in the Kremlin, members of the Soyuz group said they were "categorically opposed" to sending Soviet troops to the Middle East under the U.N. flag. They said the Soviet Union should have taken the same position as China and abstained from voting on the use-of-force resolution.

Pope

(Continued from page 1)

European politician has spoken about a possible papal visit to Iraq or a tripartite meeting grouping the leaders of the U.S. and Iraq and the pontiff.

On several occasions since the Gulf crisis erupted in August with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Pope has called for dialogue and peace negotiations to resolve the conflict, but he has never referred to any possible visit to Iraq, now frequented by politicians and former statesmen as well as international peace activists.

There has been no indication either from Washington of any possible Bush-Saddam encounter arranged by the Pope or otherwise. Bush has rejected suggestions by Saddam for a television debate through satellite hook-up between the two. However, he has invited the Iraqi foreign minister to the U.S. and is sending his secretary of state to Baghdad.

The Muslim Brotherhood, which had initially condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait but later focused its campaign against the Western military build-up in the Gulf, he met with the delegation.

In general, the Brotherhood, the most influential group in Jordan, has not completely severed ties with the Gulf states. Last September a Brotherhood delegation visited Saudi Arabia but later reiterated its condemnation of the Western presence in the Gulf.

But Jordanian officials and some political analysts maintain that dialogue should be encouraged despite the evident differences between the Jordanian public opinion and the Kuwaiti approach.

The Kuwaiti move (to send a delegation here) came a little



The King Talal Dam — 'most of the dams in Jordan are polluted to the point that it is poison in there.'

We consume the least amount of water but we are still heading towards shortages

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan has one of the lowest water consumption rates in the region, estimated at 85 litres per capita a day, which has raised concern among specialists of drawing the country towards a situation where Jordanians would be living below the international average of hygienic standards.

Water specialists also warn that unless water is preserved more professionally and pollution is curbed, the Kingdom would be facing severe problems in food production.

Dr. Elias Salameh, director of the Water Research and Study Centre at the University of Jordan admits that Jordan is facing a critical situation. "We are one of the countries that are consuming the least amount of water in the region." Comparing notes on water consumption, he disclosed that while Jordan uses 85 litres per capita a day, Syria and Egypt consume 120 litres per capita in the same time period. Iraq's consumption rate falls to the 110 litre margin. "By 1995, we will run out of renewable water resources, and would have to resort to allocating more water for domestic use." In other words, we will be reducing the use of water for food production, Salameh said.

He explained that the sector that consumes the largest amounts of water is the agricultural field, using from 75 to 80 per cent of the country's water. At present water is tapped twice a week into houses allowing for a two-day period during which water is stored.

"If there is a drastic water shortage, people will still get water for domestic use," Salameh asserted. But on whose account? "Agriculture would have to be cultivated to the benefit of domestic uses," he replied.

This means that unemployment is likely to increase fol-

lowed by all the socio-economic implications of unemployment, specialists fear. Although the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the government have recently been cautioning the public to use water moderately and to implement water-saving measures, Salameh believes that this is not the real issue. All the water that people are supposedly wasting on cars, or on gardening either goes into the soil or into the streets and sewers for re-use. "What we need to do is work on the dams, on water treatment and on the water piping system," he explains.

Many researchers on this subject feel that a great contributor to water scarcity this year is the large number of people and refugees that have recently flooded into the country, according to officials. The government has been initiating projects to build more dams throughout the country but financing for construction and negotiations are still facing difficulties. As an outlet to the need for water for agricultural uses, the government has begun to tap fossil water in the southern part of the country. Though there seem to be two sides to this method, Salameh insists that "this is bad," attributing his conclusion to the fact that fossil water is non-renewable. "This mining water is being used for wheat production. Fossil water is only a strategic water reserve." He explained that the age of that water is some tens of thousands of years old. Once it is pumped out of the aquifer, the level drops and it is not replenished. Specialists said that deep aqua flow is found deeper in the earth but it is too costly to pump, so while Aqaba is in need of water, the fossil water is being used for wheat. "If wheat is being used for wheat, the level drops and it is not replenished. Specialists said that deep aqua flow is found deeper in the earth but it is too costly to pump, so while Aqaba is in need of water, the fossil water is being used for wheat. "If wheat is being used for wheat, the level drops and it is not replenished. Specialists said that deep aqua flow is found deeper in the earth but it is too costly to pump, so while Aqaba is in need of water, the fossil water is being used for wheat. "If wheat is being used for wheat, the level drops and it is not replenished. Specialists said that deep aqua flow is found deeper in the earth but it is too costly to pump, so while Aqaba is in need of water, the fossil water is being used for wheat. 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Atletico jubilant over Zaragoza win

By Reuters

ATLETICO Madrid were still celebrating Monday after their 4-0 Spanish Soccer League victory over Real Zaragoza, a win completed with only nine men on the field.

"It was a great game, our best since I have been at Atletico," said Yugoslav coach Tomislav Ivic, who joined the club in August.

"I have always said things will turn out well if we put all our effort into it, and this result proves it."

The score was only 1-0 when Atletico captain Paulo Futre was sent off for retaliating to a foul, but the Madrid side turned on the style in the second half to score three more goals.

Defender Juan Carlos was the other player dismissed.

Johan Cruyff, manager of league leaders Barcelona, was relieved but pleased after his side's hard-fought 2-1 home win over Real Mallorca.

"The team did well, not so much in the football we played but in terms of effort and fight," he said.

Champions Real Madrid moved up to third place, five points behind Barcelona, after beating Real Valladolid 1-0 in an otherwise disappointing match.

French champions Marseille also won, but not well enough to please team chief Franz Beckenbauer. Marseille moved four points clear at the top of the league with a 2-0 win over fifth-placed Montpellier.

"We are now four points ahead

but that's my only satisfaction from this match," Beckenbauer said angrily. "I am not happy with what I saw and with the game my team played.

"I don't know exactly what happened, or whether my players are perhaps tired but I'm going to have to find some solutions quickly."

Marseille struggled haphazardly throughout the match, winning only with two goals in the last 11 minutes from Basile Boli and Abed Pele.

It was big defender Boli's sixth goal in seven matches but Montpellier protested vehemently that his effort was offside, holding up the match for several minutes.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

Auxerre, who drew 1-1 in Bordeaux, and Monaco, who threw away a 2-0 advantage to tie 2-2 with Nancy, both lost ground on Marselle and are on 24 points to 23 for the leaders.

In Italy, the league programme was once again marred by violence.

Fighting broke out before the match between Juventus and Fiorentina, whose fans are still bitter that their former star Roberto Baggio was sold to the Turin team in the summer.

Baggio, the world's most expensive player, was in subdued mood Sunday, but his new team won 2-1 to join Internazionale and Sampdoria at the top.

In Rome, police arrested 300 fans for fighting outside the

Olympic Stadium before and after the derby between AS Roma and Lazio, which ended 1-1.

The derby marked the return as substitute of Lazio's Argentine World Club midfielder Pedro Troglio, who has been on the transfer list since the start of the season.

Another Argentine World Club star, Claudio Caniggia, sparked the resignation of the Atlanta team doctor by coming to the pitch 10 minutes in the 1-1 draw with Bologna.

The doctor had said the striker, who broke his arm on Oct. 3, was not yet ready to return to the team.

In the Netherlands, Ajax won accolades for their 5-0 victory over Den Haag with commentators saying it had shown them to be the best side in the country.

Ajax, defending champions, lag a point behind PSV Eindhoven but have a game in hand.

"It is too early to say Ajax will win the national competition, but the technical brilliance of the Amsterdam team make it more colourful than all other Dutch teams put together," the Volkskrant newspaper decided.

PSV, on the other hand, were severely criticised for their 2-0 victory over Willem 11.

"PSV at this moment lack flair, joy in their play and Romario," said the Telegraaf, noting the continued absence of the team's talented Brazilian striker.

In London, Arsenal, humiliated at home in midweek, ended Liverpool's 23-match unbeaten record Sunday to throw the English League soccer champion-

ship wide open.

The second-placed Londoners, stripped of two championship points last month for a mass brawl with Manchester United, beat the champions 3-0 to slash Liverpool's lead to three points.

It was Liverpool's first league defeat since they lost 1-0 to Arsenal's neighbours Tottenham Hotspur in March.

The emphatic win revived Arsenal's title hopes after a month when everything seemed to be conspiring against them.

Now the only first division team still unbeaten in the league this season, Arsenal lost 6-2 to Manchester United in the League Cup Wednesday in their worst home defeat in 69 years.

But Sunday's goals from Paul Merson, Lee Dixon — a penalty — and Alan Smith made ample amends for that defeat.

Merson headed Arsenal in front in the 21st minute and Dixon hit the second from the spot in the 47th after Swedish international Anders Limpar was sent crashing by Gary Ablett.

Liverpool, without England internationals Peter Beardsley and Steve McMahon, made little impression on Arsenal's defence, superbly marshalled by Ireland sweeper David O'Leary.

Smith made it 3-0 two minutes from time after a delightful backheel from Merson set him free in the area.

"There's a lot of people out there today who do not love Arsenal Football Club but who wanted us to beat them because it keeps the championship alive," said O'Leary.

"It's been almost nine years since we won and people have said a lot of negative things about American tennis, but as everyone can see we're really on the upswing. We're going to be really good in the '90s," Pugh said.

Most of the glory usually goes to singles players in the Davis Cup.

Andre Agassi and Michael Chang, who won Friday's singles matches, gave the United States a 2-0 finals lead.

But Leach and Pugh have been the backbone of this Davis Cup team, quietly winning all four of their matches this year.

"The doubles is only worth one point, but it always comes at a pivotal time in the tie," said Leach, whose inspired play allowed the U.S. team to wrap up the title before Sunday's reverse singles, won by Australia.

U.S. Captain Tom Gorman, a player on winning and losing Davis Cup teams who realised his goal of leading a championship squad after failing short for the last four years, tried to put the 3-2 victory in perspective.

"Don't know if it's cycles

countries go through, but Sweden is starting to be asked the same question we were asked four years ago and that is: 'What's wrong with tennis in the country?'" Now all of a sudden nobody is asking that in America.

"When Mac (John McEnroe)

stopped playing for a while there did not even receive thanks.

Korean national teams are highly competitive and are not known ever to have lost a world championship on purpose.

The players have not com-

mented. Their coach said the team was "dispirited," citing lack of support.

"The South Korean women's handball team has been reduced to a paper tiger," wrote the news-

paper Seoul Shinmin.

Korean newspapers quoted the head of the South Korean Handball Federation as saying he

would resign at the end of the championships to take responsibility for the embarrassment the team's performance caused the country.

Kasparov requests postponement of 17th game

LYON, France (AP) — The 17th game of the World Chess Championship between Garry Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov has been postponed from Monday to Wednesday at Kasparov's request.

The players have not com-

mented. Their coach said the team was "dispirited," citing lack of support.

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paper Seoul Shinmin.

Korean newspapers quoted the head of the South Korean Handball Federation as saying he

would resign at the end of the championships to take responsibility for the embarrassment the team's performance caused the country.

Through the 15 completed games, they are tied with 7.5 points each.

They have had three draws in the French portion of the championship. They had 10 draws in the 12 games played in New York between Oct. 8 and Nov. 7.

The first player to reach 12.5 points wins the championship, but Kasparov would retain the title in the event of a draw.

Each player is allowed to re-

quest up to three postponements during the championship. The postponement requested by Kasparov on Monday was his second, while Karpov has used one time-out.

"Maybe next year we'll even

play on some out of date surface like grass," joked Gorman.

Even if forced to defend the cup on grass as Australia would prefer, the United States could produce a team that might well be favoured.

"I know we're not taking the trophy home but I know we have a champion team," Fraser con-

tinued. "The way they gutted it out when they had already been beaten is really something."

Following the match, Austra-

lian captain Neale Fraser con-

gratulated the winners.

"They fully deserved it. They

are worthy champions who beat us fair and square," said Fraser,

forgetting earlier criticism over

the U.S. decision to play the final on clay.

"I know we're not taking the

trophy home but I know we have a champion team," Fraser con-

tinued. "The way they gutted it

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beaten is really something."

Now arrange the circled letters to

form the surprise answer, as sug-

gested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY DECEMBER 4, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: After an upsetting early morning start you come under excellent conditions (Moon trine Pluto) for anything that requires quick thinking. You are equally versatile in your physical movements through early evening.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)

You are highly charged today and tonight to put into motion the various intimate aims that are vital to your future wellbeing and happiness.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20)

Deep within yourself you now know the answers to the various arrangements you can make for gaining your most cherished longings.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

You now can get both usual companions and those in public who understand your personal desires to lead you in making them yours.

CARCINUS (June 22 to July 21)

New interests of a recreational nature can now be very good for you so consider where you can extend your interests to make them a reality.

PISCES (December 22 to January 21)

A special day for you to spend every spare moment with members of your own family making arrangements to see and enjoy them much more.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)

The way you now plan your financial activities through your daily occupation is the means by which you can have more of this world's goods.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)

New interests of a recreational nature can now be very good for you so consider where you can extend your interests to make them a reality.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20)

A special day for you to spend every spare moment with members of your own family making arrangements to see and enjoy them much more.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)

Deep within yourself you now know the answers to the various arrangements you can make for gaining your most cherished longings.

LEO (July 22 to August 21)

You are now inspired with some of your most brilliant ideas where your creative talents are concerned so lose no time but put them in motion.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22)

Get your facts and figures of a

couple of years."

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)

Consider the best manner in which you approach those with whom you desire contact in the future so a long time relationship is begin.

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54 killed in S. African clashes

TOKOZA, South Africa (AP) — Police said Monday at least 54 people had been killed in black factional fighting when rival groups armed with axes, spears and guns clashed in black townships, looting and burning homes.

At least 24 black men were shot and hacked to death late Sunday and early Monday in Tokoza township, east of Johannesburg, in some of the worst factional violence in recent months, police said.

Fighting also erupted Sunday in Katlehong, Tembisa and Sebokeng townships. Police said 37 people in all were killed in the Johannesburg area.

Elsewhere at least seven people were killed in weekend fighting in Natal province. Police said some 500 men armed with guns and knives fought near Pietermaritzburg in clashes between factions supporting the Inkatha Freedom Party and rival African National Congress.

Heavily-armed police and troops in armoured vehicles moved in to Tokoza Monday to halt the fighting. Police in armoured vehicles shepherded hundreds of Xhosa armed with clubs, axes and spears, who marched through the area singing and brandishing weapons.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela and Law and Order Minister

Adriaan Vlok toured Tokoza Sunday night to try and help restore order. Police said the two men visited squatter areas hit by fighting, but gave no further details.

The fighting pitted Zulu supporters of Inkatha against Xhosas and other blacks linked to the ANC. Police, political leaders and residents gave conflicting and vague accounts of how the fighting started, with each side blaming the other.

Police said a white man was "necklaced," or killed with a burning tire wrapped around his body, in Katlehong, but gave no details on the incident. Very few whites have been hurt in the factional fighting that has raged in Johannesburg's black townships in recent months.

Hundreds of terrified men, women and children fled their homes after the fighting erupted in Tokoza and Katlehong. There were reports of widespread looting.

Several homes in Tokoza were attacked and burned, their inhabitants hacked to death with knives and clubs. Bodies were still lying on the ground around the burned out houses.

"The Zulus came in the night. They killed our people. We don't know why. They are killing us," said one frightened Xhosa man holding a club.

Some residents claimed Zulus were being aided by armed whites, but could give no evidence. The ANC and other opposition groups have accused security forces of siding with Inkatha in the fighting.

Meanwhile, African National Congress President Oliver Tambo will return to South Africa next week after 30 years in exile, the ANC representative in Britain said Monday.

Mendi Msimang said Tambo, who has been in London undergoing rehabilitation after suffering a stroke, would arrive back home on Dec. 13. He may start his journey later this week, visiting one or two countries on the way.

Tambo, 73, who left South Africa in 1960 after the ANC was banned by the government, came to London in April this year from Stockholm.

De Klerk legalised the ANC in February this year and shortly afterwards released Nelson Mandela, now ANC deputy president, from 27 years in jail.

Tambo has been president of the ANC, South Africa's oldest anti-apartheid movement, since 1969. During many of his 30 years in exile, he was based in Lusaka, Zambia, where the ANC had its headquarters.

But he travelled widely, becoming a roving ambassador for the black nationalist cause.

majority. Talks between the government, the ANC and other black groups on writing a new constitution are expected to begin next year.

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Bush starts visit to Latin America

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — U.S. President George Bush opened a weeklong South American visit Monday at a time when U.S. concerns are turning from the cold war to economic cooperation in this hemisphere.

Bush's plane arrived at dawn Monday in this Brazilian capital after an overnight flight from Washington.

His itinerary also includes Uruguay, Chile, Venezuela and Argentina.

Bush seemed in good spirits as he arrived at dawn at a military air base here. He smiled and shook hands as he was greeted by Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek and an air force honour guard. He later was driven to Planalto Palace, where Bush was officially welcomed by President Fernando Collor de Mello. Later, Bush was scheduled to deliver a speech to a joint session of the Brazilian Congress.

Bush and Collor opened their meeting by talking about the impact on world oil prices and the global economy after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

Bush mentioned the figures \$1.5 billion, presumably talking about the impact that President Vaclav Havel told him the occupation was having on Czechoslovakia. "That's why, when people say to me that this can go on and on, I say 'no,'" Bush said.

Leaders in all five nations were preparing warm welcomes for Bush, while demonstrators promised to stage protests at each stop.

At each stop he is expected to lead the evolution to democratic rule in Latin America and to promote his vision of a hemisphere-wide free trade zone.

After a decade in which U.S. hemispheric policy was dominated by the political upheaval in Central America, Bush now has

the luxury of having what U.S. officials like to call a "positive agenda" in his dealings with Latin America.

Skeptics wonder about the usefulness of his visit at a time of crisis in the Gulf, but Bush feels it is important to seize on what he regards as a moment of unique opportunity in hemispheric relations.

Bush was to have made the visit in September but postponed it because of the Gulf situation.

Each of the countries on Bush's itinerary except Venezuela began the last decade under military rule and now has an elected president. Venezuela has had stable, democratic government since 1958.

"Deal with them harshly and

Argentina in state of siege after army revolt

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem declared a state of siege Monday after rebel officers seized the army headquarters in central Buenos Aires at dawn, presidential spokesman Humberto Toledo said.

An army statement said around 50 armed men took control of the headquarters and were in partial control of several other military units in the city. It said shooting took place but gave no details of casualties.

Local radio reported two men killed and five injured in the shooting. There were also unconfirmed reports that rebel coast guard officers had seized their headquarters in the port of Buenos Aires.

The army statement said the situation was normal elsewhere in the country and that orders had been given to retake the buildings held by the rebels.

By 8 a.m. no troops could be seen around the army headquarters. Reporters at the scene said they were waved back at gunpoint by three rebel officers who came out of the building and raised the Argentine battle flag, saying only "for the fatherland" before re-entering.

Politicians at government house said Menem had promised to act energetically to deal with the rebellion, the fourth since April 1987. An emergency cabinet meeting had been called.

Congressman Miguel Angel Toma told local radio he understood the rebels were linked to retired Colonel Mohamad Ali Seineidin, who led an uprising in December 1988.

Seineidin is currently serving 60 days detention at a military base after issuing an open letter to Menem in which he warned of a potentially explosive situation within the armed forces.

The three previous army rebellions involved groups of disgruntled junior officers.

The officers were opposed to

the army high command and unhappy at the way in which military personnel were brought to trial for crimes committed during the war against leftist subversives under the 1976-1983 military dictatorship.

They also had been criticised for their role in the 1982 Malvinas (Falklands) war against Britain.

The White House had no immediate comment on the incident in Buenos Aires. U.S. President George Bush arrived in Brazil Monday to start a one-week visit to South America that includes a stop in Argentina Wednesday and Thursday.

A second army statement said there had been "casualties" but gave no further details. It added that the situation at the four army corps based in the interior of Argentina was normal.

Army Commander General Martin Bonnet had set up headquarters at a mounted grenadiers base in the suburb of Palermo near one of the garrisons which had been seized.

Residents of Palermo, a fashionable area three kilometres from the city centre, said they were awakened by repeated bursts of machinegun and semi-automatic weapons fire coming from the nearby garrison.

Live television coverage showed heavily-armed loyal troops outside the Palermo garrison. At one point two rebel soldiers stretched on the ground to surrender to armed men in civilian clothing.

The two soldiers were rushed away with pistols at their heads. An ambulance went into the base and left shortly afterwards, sirens blaring. Loyal troops checked the inside but reporters were unable to approach before it sped off.

Central streets were blocked off causing rush hour traffic chaos. Lorries trying to enter the port were turned back by armed coast guards, although it was not clear if they were loyal forces or rebels.

COLUMN 10

Italian film wins top European award

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — The Italian film *Porte Aperte* was named European Film of the Year during presentations of the Felix Awards, the European version of the Oscars. Britain's Kenneth Branagh received the Actor of the Year award for his role in *Henry V*, which was named Young European Film of the Year. Carmen Maura was named top actress for her role in the Spanish film *Ay Carmela*. *Porte Aperte*, a political thriller set in 1930s Italy, was directed by Gianni Amelio and produced by Angelo Rizzoli.

The Felix Awards were presented in Glasgow, one of its last events in 1990. Swedish director Ingmar Bergman headed the jury, which included actresses Deborah Kerr and Jeanne Moreau.

Woman permitted to publicly beat husband

BORSAD, India (AP) — A local court permitted a woman to publicly beat her husband before it granted him a divorce. United News of India (UNI) reported. The beating occurred Oct. 7 but went unreported until a social organisation, apparently outraged by the incident, complained to the government. No further action has been taken.

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Central streets were blocked off causing rush hour traffic chaos. Lorries trying to enter the port were turned back by armed coast guards, although it was not clear if they were loyal forces or rebels.

Jagger-Hall marriage is illegal

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A Hindu leader in Bali says British rock singer Mick Jagger's recent marriage to long-time girlfriend Jerry Hall was illegal, the official Antara News Agency reported. Wayan Surpha, chairman of the Indonesian Hindu Association in Bali's capital of Denpasar, said Jagger had not met the necessary conditions to convert to Hinduism, a prerequisite for the marriage ceremony. "The wedding ceremony was illegal and was merely imitating some parts of the original Balinese wedding ceremony," Surpha was quoted as saying.

Twenty-one opposition parties and the Islamic fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami have called on all workers to go on strike for eight hours a day from Tuesday.

The call has been backed by students, the main force behind the opposition groups, as well as industrial and transport workers, teachers, lawyers and doctors.

They all want Ersihad, a former general who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1982, to resign.

"Deal with them harshly and

Life returns to normal in Chad

NDJAMENA, Chad (AP) — Shops reopened and life returned to calm normality Monday in the Chadian capital as rebel conqueror Idriss Deby savoured his first full day in power.

No evidence surfaced to settle conflicting reports on the fate of deposed President Hissene Habre. A Libyan news agency Sunday reported him killed near the Sudan border, while other sources said he had fled to neighbouring Cameroon. Neither report could be independently verified.

Deby held talks late Sunday with Alingue Bawayeu, president of the National Assembly and legal chief of state in the president's absence, various sources reported.

After a triumphal motorcade procession through the capital in a black Mercedes, Deby declared Sunday that he did not recognise Habre's successors and vowed that his Patriotic Salvation Movement would install multiparty democracy. Deby had helped Habre lead a coup in 1982.

Habre organised the country's first contested election earlier this year, but candidates were limited to independents and members of his ruling party.

There were no immediate reports of deaths in the takeover of

the capital, but the French relief agency Doctors Without Borders said it treated 120 people hurt in fighting between government soldiers and rebel fighters last week.

"My worry is not to be president of the republic," said Deby, who served as Habre's chief military adviser from 1982 to 1989. "This country must become democratic, pluralist. The moment has come to lay down our arms."

Deby did not rule out being president, but said the decision would rest with his party. He said he wants to meet with Ailingue Bawayeu, president of Chad's National Assembly and the highest-ranking politician left in the capital.

Deby also urged reconciliation with Goukouni Oueddei, the president he and Habre toppled in 1982. Oueddei is living in exile in Libya.

On Sunday, Deby met French Ambassador Francois-Xavier Gendreau. The ambassador, however, declined to say whether he tried to persuade Deby to negotiate with Bawayeu.

Last year, Habre accused Deby of plotting a coup, and Deby fled to Sudan and organised a rebel movement against his onetime ally.

In its dispatches Sunday, however, JANA called Habre a "brigand" and hailed the victory of the rebels.

The official Libyan News Agency (JANA) said Habre and

Honecker in serious condition

BERLIN (AP) — Soviet military doctors have ordered former East German leader Erich Honecker, sought for arrest by German officials, into a cardiology unit at a Red Army hospital, a radio station reported Monday.

Soviet military officials have

prevented German police from serving Honecker with an arrest warrant on charges he personally issued orders to East German border guards to shoot-to-kill people trying to flee the Communist country.

German police must have permission from Soviet authorities to enter the hospital complex in the woods outside Beelitz, a town in former East Germany some 32 kilometres south of Berlin.

A Soviet diplomat said Sunday that the decision on whether Honecker can be turned over to German authorities would have to be made at the highest level, presumably in Moscow.

Diplomatic sources also said most of Habre's cabinet ministers left the capital by vehicle.

Though anti-Habre rebels have been armed by Libya in the past, it is unclear how much help Deby's forces have received recently from Tripoli. Libya has denied any involvement in the rebel's recent offensive.

In its dispatches Sunday, however, JANA called Habre a "brigand" and hailed the victory of the rebels.

The official Libyan News Agency (JANA) said Habre and

Meanwhile, several aides had been killed between Tine and Oum Chalibet in eastern Chad, the site of heavy fighting between government soldiers and rebel fighters last week.

"The independence process is irreversible and we will win no matter what forces or weapons oppose us," he declared.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis told the news conference that he expected to meet U.S. President George Bush in Washington on Dec. 10.

Lithuanian officials said Landsbergis would seek stronger Western backing for the three rebel republics during his visit to the United States and Canada next week.

Most Western leaders have been reluctant to express overt support for the independence of the Baltic states for fear of weakening Gorbachev.

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were absorbed into the Soviet Union under strong military pressure in the wake of a 1939 pact between Moscow and Nazi Germany.

Defense Minister General Vejiko Kadiljevic said in a taped television interview that the main danger to the country's unity was the formation of regional armies in the republics.

"This is done by misusing the territorial defence, civil defence and organs of the Interior Ministry and by the formation of volunteer brigades," Kadiljevic said.

"All armed formations outside the constitutionally defined armed forces will be disbanded, the army will adhere to the law and the constitution and those who oppose it by force will be incapacitated by force."

Kadiljevic's warning was the strongest threat so far in growing tension between the army and the republics of Slovenia and Croatia over control of territorial defence units — reservists drawn from ex-national service conscripts.

It was the first time that the army has threatened to take action against police.

Slovenia and Croatia have asserted control over their territorial defence and put their weapons under armed guard in defiance of Yugoslav military leaders.

The tension over Nagorno-Karabakh has added to Gorbachev's problems as he tries to pacify restive republics and revive the Soviet economy.

Gorbachev